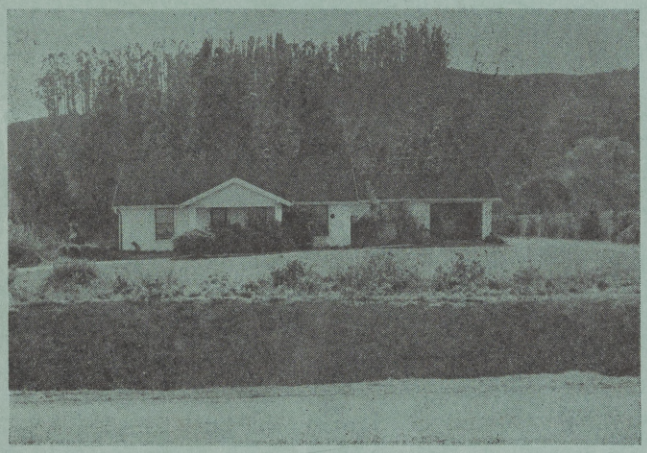
The Aromas Booster

Monthly Bulletin Dedicated To Community Improvement

Monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, Blohm Ave. School, 8:00 o'clock

Volume II, No. 6 **PUBLISHED BY THE AROMAS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION** **April, 1954**

Aromas Home of the Month



Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stevens, San Juan Rd.

Are you more interested in the Home or the People? Our "Home" visits leave me with an overtone of certain impressions. Here are several. Predominance of blue in decor always reminds me of the late Peter Marshall (The "Man called Peter"), and Mrs. Stevens loves this colour. Also, if we get to building, believe me, Winchester House will be an "also ran", with all the ideas snitched from our neighbors! This time, it's the inside lobby. But, finally, have you ever read Henry Drummond's exquisite exposition of Corinthians, Chapter 13? He calls it: "The Greatest Thing In The World." . . . "And the Greatest of These—is Love." Is there any doubt about it, in spite of frequent loose usage of the term? Where a man and woman can achieve a fine welding of deep spiritual experience and belief, with human relationship, the resultant well balanced, happy family life makes a noticeable contribution towards Heaven on Earth. Our good neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Chas. R. Stevens have done just this—not in five minutes, but over a long period of married life. We called at their house on the San Juan Road, between Aromas and Carpenteria Avenue, on a wet day. Yet, the house **felt sunny.**

The house stands well back from the road, has a deep lawn with drive right around, and a spreading Acacia at each end. We entered on the left side, passed a flowering border and met our host by the garage. This is part of the house and goes from front to back, as does the adjoining utility room. This

(Please turn to Page Seven)

Nods to Aromans

To **Dr. Leonard Dodson** of the Stanford Lane Hospital, San Francisco, for the wonderful job done on our dear Tiny Cook. We, who love her, thank-you and take this opportunity to "hand it to you."

Other Aromans have been under the weather, but as I don't know where the jobs were done or where (perhaps it's as well), can't praise he doers.

We had the bright idea of planting CALLA LILLIES on the top part of AROMAS ROAD? (Editor's note: That's the Marinelli's). The house here looks so fresh and tidy with the clearing going on around.

Let us praise the Mexican workers on the Birbeck Ranch. Have you noticed how they gradually clear a piece of rough land and raise good vegetables?

Do forgive my not getting around, looking, lately. It has been a trifle awkward with John so much occupied lately.

May I give a nod to all friends and neighbors who called and offered help when John was ill recently? And those who did so much, so gladly?

I have long wanted to "nod" WHITE'S MORTUARY, Watsonville. We have been asked to patronize advertisers in the Booster, but, if there is one place most of us are trying our level best to avoid, it is the Mortuary! Still, we'll recommend it, as long as it is for someone else!

Spring "Notes"

Noticed Wilbur Johnson's young apricot orchard simply busted its buttons with bloom this year. Makes us wonder if maybe the apricots around here didn't just die of old age instead of the horrible disease accredited to them, of course, Wilbur's old orchard does pretty well too.

New lawns sprouting and getting ready to sprout everywhere. HARRY TOTTEN'S has reached the velvety stage; JACK SEEKIN'S and RALPH CARPENTER'S are just showing nice and green. JOHN BRAGLIN, JOHN NETTO and JOE BALLA and GORDON PRESTON'S are in the "process" and things will be happening soon.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor ..... Leola Reed
Telephone 4-8665

Associate Editor ..... Tiny Cook
Telephone 4-8440

Associate Editor ..... Arlene German
Telephone 4-8253

Advertising ..... Leo Herrlich
Telephone 4-4902

Business Manager ..... Lorene Hopper
Telephone 4-9019

The Home of the Month ..... John Taylor
Telephone 2-1719

Inside of Your Home ..... Edna Breslawsky
Telephone 4-8501

Outside of Your Home ..... Mildred German
Telephone 4-8253

Nods to Aromans ..... Melecey Taylor
Telephone 2-1719

Chats About Farm and Home ..... Art Greathead

Who's New In Aromas ..... Viola Herrlich
Telephone 4-4902

Youth News ..... Mrs. Dale Super

Circulation ..... Celia Roberts,
Carroll Hall, Minnie Lak, Cora Noah.

Typists ..... Dorothy Millarke, Shirley Smiley

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Editorial

Have been thinking a lot lately about the certain small High School in Central Point, Oregon, from which I was a graduate. The enrollment was 100. There were thirteen in my graduating class. Eight of those 13 went on to take higher training after High School graduation, not one of them had the money to attend college, all worked their way through and entered various professions. It took two brothers eight years to put each other through school. Both are now High School teachers in California. Why did all of this happen? The only answer is that we were in **close association** and **friendly relationship** with teachers who **inspired** us to seek something higher! Teachers who **knew** us well enough to **care** what happened to our future.

Sixty-two percent of a graduating class going on to college is a pretty enviable record, I think.

BUILDERS

THE EDWARD CHADWELL FAMILY

The day the Pink edition of the Booster went to press we received a lovely letter from Pauline Chadwell, giving all of the information we had asked Ex-Aromans to send in for that edition. So, we're sorry t's late, but so glad to include the Chadwells in a story of the Builders of Aromas—for builders they truly were.

Theirs was one of the firm foundations on which Aromas was built. Ed's ready wit and Pauline's readiness to always lend a hand in times of sickness

(Please turn to Page Eight)

Calendar of Aromas Meetings

Grange—
Second and fourth Friday at Grange Hall, Master Alice Lewis.

Volunteer Firemen—
First Friday, Fire House. Dolan Marshall, Chief.

Dora Belden Girls—
Fourth Friday, at homes of members. President, Mrs. Ruth Batinich.

Improvement Association—
Second Wednesday, Civic Center. Tiny Cook, President.

P-T. A.—
Third Friday, school. Henry Fukuba, President.

Home Extension—
Second Tuesday, Fellowship Hall. Bonnie Caudill, President.

Boy Scouts—
Every Thursday, Scout Room, Civic Center, 7 o'clock. Harvey Assmussen, Master.

Girl Scouts, Troop 29—
Every Monday, Scout Room, Civic Center, 3:30. Ruby Hall, Leola Reed, Leaders.

Cubs—
Third Tuesday, old school, Leo Caudill, Master. Dens weekly in various homes.

Girl Scouts, Troop 31—
Every Thursday, Civic Center, 3:30. Kay Yoshida, Mrs. Wm. Stratton, Leaders.

Brownie Scouts, Troop 17—
Tuesday afternoons, Civic Center. Ethel McCandless, Mrs. R. Rayfield, Leaders.

Brownie Scouts, Troop 10—
Wednesday afternoons, Civic Center. Joy Clark, Marie Giorvas, Leaders.

Garden Club—
Fourth Thursday afternoon, Civic Center. Mildred German, President.

Church of Christ—
Bardue and Rose Ave. Brother Mason and Brother Eaker, Speakers.
Sunday Services, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Singing and Bible lessons, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Community Baptist Church—
Rev. Geo. Meyer, Pastor.
Carpenteria Avenue.
Sunday School, 9:45; Worship Service 11 a.m.; B.Y.F., 7:00 p.m.; Evening Worship, 8:00 p.m.

Men's Brotherhood—
Last Monday of month, Fellowship Hall. Bill Spurgeon, President. Pot Luck Supper each meeting.

Friendly Neighbors—
First Tuesday, at homes of members. Mrs. Wm. Franklin President.

Missionary Society—
Third Wednesday, 2 o'clock, Fellowship Hall. Wilma Haskin, President.

Ladies' Aid—
First Wednesday, 2 o'clock, Fellowship Hall. Mrs. W. Clinesmith, President.

Prayer Meeting—
Every Wednesday, Fellowship Hall.

Aromas Flames—
Second Tuesday. Mrs. Kenneth Marshall, President.

Flames' Card Party—
First Thursday of each month, 8:00 p.m., School.

Eva Edmundson Celebrates Ninety-first Birthday

Having a birthday this month is one of our old timers in this District, Eva J. Edmundson, age 91, April 11.

May we extend to her as neighbors and Friends a wonderful Birthday Wish that she have many more years to spend enjoying her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many friends.

Grandmother Edmundson is alert, charming and enjoying life. On her the years do not show.

She was born in Kokoma, Indiana as Eva J. Butler, April 11, 1863, was married in Kansas to Mr. Edmundson in 1889. They came to San Jose on their Honeymoon. The two children were born in the seven years spent there. 1896 they settled in the Lake District near Watsonville. Many happy years were spent here developing their farm and orchard.

Mrs. Edmundson remembers when early days in the Lake District was pioneer life. No convenience of any kind, cattle roamed the roads, neighbors were far apart. Visiting was done by wagon or horse back. No telephones or electricity. Wagons were used for transporting hay, potatoes, wood and fruit to town.

They attended church in Aromas which at that time was held out-of-doors. "I was often lonely in those days", Mrs. Edmundson said, "and would sit on a dry goods box by the road and wait for my children to return from school."

"If it hadn't been for my wonderful friends and neighbors the Hambys, Kirbys, Crouches and Mahars, I don't know what I would of done."

After Mr. Edmundson's death, she came to live with her daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Thayer, on San Miguel Road, near Aromas. Her son, Ray Edmundson, operates the home ranch.

And here Grandmother is a quiet, loving mother enjoying life with her family. Four generations are residing here on their ranch.

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Eva Edmundson and Grand Niece Katherine E. Rambo, II

Correction

MRS. HERBERT SCARBROUGH is Joyce Combs and not Jane. Joyce wrote us such a nice letter, enclosing a dollar for the Booster. The article was written about Joyce (although the same thing would apply to Jane) and then, somehow in the course of re-writing, typing, etc., Jane's name got in there.

We don't know how those things happen! The Booster is proof read by three different people, and we haven't had a perfect copy yet!

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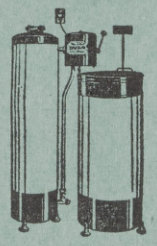

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YOUTH NEWS

JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB
By Reporter Sandra Hopper

Philip Smith conducted the meeting at the Garden Club meeting on March 9th. We decided to plant fuchsias in the shady spots around the school. We will plant them this spring. The children that can bring fuchsias have potted them.

Mrs. German attended the meeting. She had lunch with the president, secretary and treasurer.

BROWNIES

Mrs. Ethel McCandless reports that Troop 17 celebrated the birthday of Scouting with a Mother's Tea, March 9. Those present were Mrs. Clarence Totten, Mrs. James Meyers, Mrs. Gerald Fann, Mrs. Helen Taylor, Mrs. Lynn Cox, Mrs. Celia Roberts, Mrs. Nina Harris, Mrs. Janie Rayfield and Mrs. Dale Super. Mrs. Jim Clard, Mrs. Marjorie Hitchings and Mrs. Robert Matthews were also guests.

The girls made Easter baskets out of milk cartons and covered them with crepe paper.

Troop 50 planted flower seeds in pans to be transplanted at a later date. The girls plan to paint cans to pot them in. They had a Fun Day, March 24. The girls fashioned hats from paper plates, ribbons, flowers and veiling, each one using her own imagination, reports their leaders, Joy Clark and Teresa Fann.

GIRL SCOUTS

Troop 29 are working on their sewing badges.

Troops 29, 31 and 50 celebrated the Scout Birthday with a party March 15. Miss Elizabeth Davison, field director, was a guest. Refreshments of a huge birthday cake and punch were served. Reported by Ruby Hall and Viola White, Leaders.

Kay Yoshida, leader of Troop 31, reports that the troop is working on Easter baskets made from milk cartons. Easter bunnys made of yarn are also being made and will be taken to the Watsonville Community Hospital for Easter. The girls also plan to make May Baskets and deliver them to the hospital, May 1.

CUB SCOUTS

Cub Master Leo Caudill reports that the Cub Scouts participated in the kite flying contest in Watsonville, March 28. Bobby Caudill won first prize in the high kite contest.

Twenty Cubs and six fathers went on a five mile hike to Waugaman's Dam, March 13.

A pack meeting was held, March 26. New games were learned. Plans were made for another hike in April.

BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts went skating March 21, in Watsonville with the Cub Scouts and the Aromas Baptist Sunday School classes.

Glen Meyer, Tommy Johnson and Charles Bachman graduated from candidate to Tenderfoot Scouts.

The Beaver Patrol went on an overnight camping trip to Scotti's Ranch March 27. Reported by Harvey Assmussen, Scout Master.

At the Garden Gate
By Mildred German

For shady areas needing a colorful pick-up, plant small containers to Schazanthsis, Nemesia and tuberous begonias. As the spring flowers fade, place containers of the above in mass plantings.

Try a massed display of sun loving plants grown in containers against east, south or west entrances. Pelargoniums, Margueretes, fancy leaved Geraniums, Tetraploid Snaps are a few of the hardy ones.

Try containers of dwarf pink Petunias surrounded by containers of purple Alyssum, Blue Lobelia, and yellow Margueretes are a good combination.

Provide all containers with saucers to provide proper moisture. Leaf mold, loam and sand in equal parts makes a good planting medium. Liquid fish or Desconso are fine for plant food when required.

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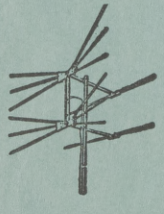

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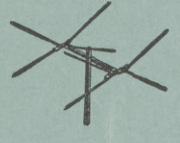

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Fire Chief Suggests Community-Wide Clean-Up

In the interest of fire prevention as well as Community Beautification, our Fire Chief, Dolan Marshall has suggested that we have a real bang-up clean-up drive. The organization of this project is to be under the direction of the Beautification Committee as ti should be an "all organizational" drive and should reach every home in Aromas. You'll be hearing more about this later when the dates are set. Let's give it Our Best!

FIRE DANGER WORSE IN HOME; CLEAN-UP LESSENS HAZARDS

The modern housewife is in charge of one of our chief danger spots—the home—and chances are greater than ever that one or more members of her family will lose their lives in a home fire!

Most recent proof of this comes from a survey made by a leading life insurance company*, which shows that four-fifths of the annual fire deaths originate in the home.

Compared with the record of 20 years ago, this survey reveals a dangerous trend: deaths in burning buildings have been gradually increasing. This does not mean only the widely publicized fires which take many lives. Most of them are home fires—in private dwellings, tenements, apartment houses and rooming houses—each claiming perhaps only one or a few victims, principally young children and old people.

Because many such fires are caused by overheated or defective stoves and heating plants, and oil stove explosions, the National Board of Fire Underwriters urges that every American housewife include her stove and heating system in her Spring clean-up.

In addition to cleaning accumulated grease, from oven, broiler and burners of her stove, she should inspect pipes, flues and other connections carefully, and call in a repairman if anything seems amiss. She should also inspect all portable heaters, making sure they are clean and in good condition.

The heating system in a private home, needless to say, cannot be tackled by the housewife herself—a qualified expert must do the job. He should clean, service and adjust the heating plant, flues and chimney, and inspect the entire system for defects or weak spots which may need repairs. This will help assure safe operation of the system when cold weather comes again.

*Survey of industrial policyholders, ages 1-74 during 1950-52.

Hats Off

To the San Benito County Supervisors for passing a new County Ordinance which prohibits tractors with metal tracks to be driven on county roads, they must be carried in trailers. And also, for forbidding the dumping of trash on any road.

To Mrs. Lester of Lester's Rose Garden for her generous donation of roses for the beautification of the Aromas School.

To the newly formed committee, which will conduct a study on school unification in this area. This committee is comprised of a representative from each organization in Aromas.

To the Southern Pacific Maintenance Crew, who fixed the railroad crossing at Carpenteria Avenue.

Clear Addresses . . .

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Garden Club Gleanings

Since the Aromas Garden Club was organized in September, they have accomplished many things. The OCTOBER meeting was a tour of Dr. O. C. Marshall's gardens, the gardens at the Corralitos Water Works, and lunch at the Corralitos Womans' Club House, Bissel's Rare-plant Nursery and Mrs. Charles Bradley's Dahlia and Peony Nursery were also visited.

NOVEMBER was a session on landscaping under the direction of Mrs. Ben Roth.

DECEMBER. was a tour of the famed Happy Valley Violet Farm at Santa Cruz. Culture and varieties of field grown varieties were studied.

JANUARY was a visit to the lovely home and garden of Miss Edna Breslawsky, interior decorator. Miss Breslawsky demonstrated flower arranging.

FEBRUARY the club planned a tour of nurseries in San Jose, to study Camellias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

MARCH meeting was held at the Social Hall, Baptist Church, where Mrs. John German presented a book review on Francis Lester-s book, "My Friend the Rose." Flower arrangements were also studied in relation to proper containers and as part of home decoration.

Thru the courtesy of Lester Rose Garden, Brown Valley Road, the Aromas School was presented with a fabulous collection of choice climbing roses. Our Post Office was presented with a pair of climbing Pinochio Roses, and each of the officers of the Junior Garden Club was presented with a climbing Red Talisman rose to plant in their own garden.

Another project for the garden club members was to provide Fuchsias for school planting. To date we have thirty nice plants donated.

One hundred tray bouquets were made for the U. S. Army Hospital at Fort Ord, by a diligent Garden Club Committee.

Mrs. Robert Blohm headed a roadside beautification committee and rounded up a group of fine citizens in the Hall district to clean up road side trash. She is at present working with a county wide program for Monterey County, with Mrs. G. Tronsen, Watsonville and Mrs. Brockman of Pacific Grove, under the Garden Clubs.

Mrs. Geo. Smith as Library Chairman is building a Gardening Library for the club. Our first contribution came from Alladin Nursery.

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Letter to Booster

In 1893, Bardue Ranch was surveyed by J. J. Lewis and Chas. J. Pioda.

The property was laid off in sections and lots. The streets, avenues, and roads were surveyed and named. The names of the streets, avenues, and roads are the same today as when named ni 1893 (61 years ago).

The Coast Division of the S.P.R.R. had been built.

The public school and a few homes dotted the beautiful valley.

The superior climatic advantages of the neighborhood in which this property is situated has long been famous among the early Spanish settlers of California. West is the Happy combination of sea coast and inland valley climate occasionally to be found in our state, where distance from the sea and mountains formation are just such as to produce the most exquisitely tempered days that can be imagined and exact upon orchard growth. The natural homes of the apple, pear, peach and apricot. Abundantly watered with living springs. Live Oak and Manzanita timber covered the hills.

Year, 1954—Aromas has now grown into a beautiful little town.

A good place to live.

The patrons on the rural route have been assigned their box numbers. If any one has been overlooked please contact the Aromas P. O. and they will be given their box numbers.

Let's have it all completed and every box with its number on it by April 30.

LESBIA WILLIAMSON

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HOME OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page One)

really is spacious. What caught my eye was a seed tray of young celery plants whose soil is aerated by angle worms fed by grape fruit (Mrs. Stevens' project).

We went into the kitchen from the rear part. Now, this is interesting. The kitchen is part of the whole living room, making it "L" shaped. The kitchen area is 14 feet by 14 feet, and the rest 22 feet by 14 feet. The only separation is by a moveable bar. When occasion arises, this can be removed and you can well imagine the spacious dining-kitchen-lounge. When the children and families all get together, it is necessary believe me! The kitchen sink is under windows, so, while working, Mrs. Stevens sees flower garden and lawns, thus fully enjoying her blue and white workshop. When she turns around, she can see the road in front.

So, we walked to the living part. Plenty of windows, comfortable furniture **and**—paintings! We were fortunate in meeting the artist, Mrs. Fisher, formerly Art's Supervisor from Santa Cruz, and Mrs. Steven's sister. Here are also trays of blooming African violets. (Wish I knew how this is done—mine have loads of leaves and never a bloom).

At the end of the living area, is a door to the covered front porch—on the right side and on the other, a curtained entrance to a most sensible lobby. This hosts the master bedroom, frilly curtained windows on two sides. Next, the spare room, beautiful in pale green and white, with one of the loveliest double bow fronted dressing tables I have seen. Also, two windows. Then the bath (blue and white). Finally, a deep closet.

The joy of the arrangement is that furniture can be moved from one place to another without damaging doors, because of the gentle half crescent curve.

The house is built of concrete bricks, floors of the same mix. Walls and ceilings are of plaster, off-white and patterned. Floors covered with stippled tiling, and, in the main room, grey carpeting.

Mrs. Stevens is cosmopolitan, having been born in Paris, France of German parents, but came here when very young. Mr. S, is American by birth. When first married, they lived on a farm in New York State. Thirty years back, they moved to Colorado, then 23 years ago, found Watsonville and settled in Aromas.

For a number of years, Charles worked for the Granite Rock Company, becoming Foreman. But, he also raised chickens and other farm stock on his place near the Sambrailo Ranch. Seven years back, deciding to build, his daughter produced plans which, finally altered, became the basis of the style for the new home.

There are three daughters, two sons and five grandchildren—all living nearby and "drop in" home daily. Son Lyle has his home on the same 10 acre lot, Harvey next door, Mrs. Helen Webb and Mrs. Dorothy Rasmussen in Aromas village and Mrs. Gardiner right at the San Juan end of the San Juan Road.

The whole family attends and serves the Aromas Baptist Church, where the father has been Treasurer for 23 years. He takes a living interest in the Community and in all local affairs, besides raising fine hogs and two goat families behind the eucalyptus windbreak out back.

Mrs. Stevens' health is frail, but she tends her plants, sews and keeps house (with family help). Helen is the "Nurse." You will notice, if you visit, that there are no threshholds. Why? Some years ago, Mr. Stevens had a touch of arthritis and, fearing that he might have to use a wheel chair, provided against this contingency as far as possible. But, he has done better! Nearly conquered it—and attributes this largely to his having drunk the juice of one lemon first thing each morning for years. He grows 'em, also most vegetables.

It is wise to inform people of evils in the community at large, or we might become smug, but, I do wish we could have more airing of the really good, worth-while "ordinary" people everywhere and, especially, around about here. If thrown mud just sticks, the quiet glory of people like the Stevens' **permeates** on contact.

None of the five children have ever been "wall-opped", but, I believe there was a threat once, wasn't there, Helen Webb? Even so, there is courtesy and service, loving kindness and unity between all. Utter confidence. I am so glad for you all. That the children honor you as much as you love them and as we all do you both. Your lives, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, bear testimony to your Faith. Your life will inspire long after you have left us, and anyone who basked in the warmth of your family for even a little while, will remember it—and be grateful.

Household Hints

Looking Into the Future . . .

When dyeing curtains, also dye some extra thread for future mending.

Baked apples . . .

are wonderful when the centers have been filled with cranberry sauce and a sprinkling of brown sugar before baking.

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Civic Center Falling Apart

A real blow to Aromas Citizens, especially the kids who now have no Scout rooms, was the discovery by the Firemen that the Joists in the roof have pulled apart. It must be fixed before any one can again use the building. This of course means that there can be

NO HOBBY SHOW

It will be several months before repairs can be made on the building, thus making it impossible to have a Hobby Show this Spring. However, it is not being discontinued, only postponed—

BUILDING FUND TO BE USED TO HELP REPAIR BUILDING

Many people donated money at the Hobby Show last year to go toward a Building Fund to help save the Blohm Avenue School for a Civic Center. In-as-much as the building was purchased through the Fire District for the Community, and in-as-much as the building is useless as it now stands, the A.I.A. voted to turn the amount over to the Fire District to help defray the expenses of repair, if it is needed.

—BUILDERS—

(Continued from Page Two)

and trouble, endeared them to all. Their children were beloved by the community and Aromas suffered a real loss when this family decided to move to Hollister.

Following is Pauline's letter:

Pauline and Edward Chadwell began their home in Aromas 33 years ago, lived twenty-five years at the Pine Tree Ranch at the end of Rose Avenue. Children attended Aromas Schools. Robert started his work in 4-H under the leadership of the late Jim Rowe, continued his project with registered stock thru high school and college and is in the stock business on a 2400 acre ranch in Zephyrhills, Florida. The Chadwells have two boys, Arthur and Edward.

Bonniejean, a teacher from San Jose State, now Mrs. Fred Morgan; the Morgans live at Point Arena and have Max Edward and Ann Marie.

Wilma has been a dental assistant for Dr. Cadosa the past two years at Healdsburg, California. Pauline is back at her profession as a registered nurse.

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